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February 24, 2006

The Honorable Glen E. Clark
The Honorable Judith A. Boulden
The Honorable William T. Thurman
Bankruptcy Judges
United States Bankruptcy Court
350 S. Main Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Re: *Attorney's Fees in Chapter 13 Cases*
Bankruptcy Case No. 06-50001

Dear Judges:

I am a bankruptcy attorney practicing in Murray, Utah. I have filed a few Chapter 13 bankruptcy cases after October 17, 2005, although my cases have not yet reached confirmation. Nonetheless, I have already realized that the time that must be spent by an attorney on each Chapter 13 bankruptcy case has increased substantially since October, 2005. Based upon the time I have spent thus far, I think it is reasonable to conclude that most competent bankruptcy attorneys will spend at least 15 hours on the average wage-earner case. At a rate of \$200.00 per hour, which is conservative compared to the hourly rate charged by other attorneys in the community, it would be reasonable that my colleagues and I earn no less than \$3,000.00 per case.

If a case involves a small business, the time spent dealing with the additional issues such as taxes, profit and loss analyses, and determination of business net worth will likely be an additional 5 to 7 hours. At the rate of \$200.00 per hour, this equates to \$1,000.00 to \$1,400.00 in additional fees that would be reasonable in a Chapter 13 business case.

Finally, the new bankruptcy law places a much greater liability on bankruptcy attorneys. The consequences for mistakes or neglect, particularly if it results in dismissal of a debtor's bankruptcy case, are much greater than in the past. This requires a skilled and competent attorney who is able to devote the time and has the expertise to shepherd a Chapter 13 case through the perils and pitfalls inherent in the new law. Such an attorney should be fairly compensated in an amount that, I submit, is not less than \$3,000.00 in a non-business Chapter 13 case and at least \$4,000.00 in a business Chapter 13 case.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

/S/

Robert A. Eder Jr.